

O 201405Z DEC 89
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGARD NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 403378

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING STATE 403378 DTD DEC 20 SENT ACTION ALDAC
BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

NOTE BY DO/CC: DOWNGRADED REFTTEL FROM SECRET TO CONFIDENTIAL
PER STATE 403652

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PM](#)

SUBJECT: TFPM02: PANAMA: REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE DEMARCHE

1. (C) THIS CABLE IS INFO FOR MEXICO CITY CARACAS,
SAN JOSE, KINGSTON, BUENOS AIRES, BOGOTA, TOKYO, SAN
SALVADOR, LIMA, LA PAZ, BRASILIA, QUITO, MADRID, LONDON,
PARIS, OTTAWA, BONN, MOSCOW, CANBERRA, AND USUN.

FOR ALL INFO ADDRESSEES EXCEPT MOSCOW: THE PRESIDENT,
VICE PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY OF STATE ARE MAKING EFFORTS
TO CONTACT THE PRIME MINISTER OR PRESIDENT OF YOUR HOST
COUNTRY DIRECTLY (IN CASE OF UN, SECRETARY WILL NOTIFY
PEREZ DE CUELLAR). INFORMATION IS PROVIDED FYI ONLY.

FOR MOSCOW ONLY: POST WILL RECEIVE SEPTTEL FOR ACTION;
THIS CABLE IS FOR INFO ONLY.

2. (U) THIS CABLE IS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUEST FOR
ALL OTHER DIPLOMATIC POSTS WORLDWIDE. SEE PARAGRAPHS
3,4, POST SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOW PARAGRAPHS 5 AND
6.

AMBASSADOR IS INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.

3. (U) THE FOLLOWING WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT WAS ISSUED
AT 0140 HOURS DECEMBER 20:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE PRESIDENT DIRECTED UNITED STATES FORCES TO
EXECUTE AT 1:00 AM THIS MORNING PRE-PLANNED MISSIONS IN
PANAMA TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES, RESTORE THE DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS, PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL
TREATIES, AND APPREHEND MANUEL NORIEGA.

THE SITUATION IN PANAMA UNDER NORIEGA HAS REACHED A
CRISIS. DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN THWARTED,
AMERICAN LIVES HAVE BEEN ENDANGERED. THE INTEGRITY OF
THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES IS AT RISK. NORIEGA IS UNDER
INDICTMENT FOR DRUG-RELATED CHARGES. THE PRESIDENT HAS
MADE EVERY EFFORT PEACEFULLY TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION
THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND LATIN AMERICAN
LEADERS. NORIEGA HAS REJECTED ALL THESE EFFORTS.

LAST FRIDAY, NORIEGA DECLARED A STATE OF WAR WITH
THE UNITED STATES. THE NEXT DAY THE PDF SHOT TO DEATH
AN UNARMED AMERICAN SERVICEMAN, WOUNDED ANOTHER, SEIZED
AND BEAT ANOTHER SERVICEMAN AND SEXUALLY THREATENED HIS
WIFE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PRESIDENT DECIDED
HE MUST ACT TO PREVENT FURTHER VIOLENCE. OUR TROOPS
WILL USE ONLY THE FORCE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE
OBJECTIVES AND WILL BE WITHDRAWN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

AT APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, THE
DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED LEADERS OF PANAMA--PRESIDENT
ENDARA AND VICE PRESIDENTS ARIAS CALDERON AND FORD--WERE
SWORN IN AND ASSUMED THEIR RIGHTFUL POSITIONS. THEY
WELCOME AND SUPPORT OUR ACTIONS AND HAVE STATED THEIR

INTENTION TO INSTITUTE A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY. THE UNITED STATES HAS RECOGNIZED THAT GOVERNMENT, IS RESTORING NORMAL RELATIONS, AND WILL COOPERATE TO REBUILD A FREE AND PROSPEROUS PANAMA. END TEXT.

14. (C) YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE PRESIDENT TOOK THIS ACTION ONLY AFTER EXHAUSTING EVERY AVAILABLE DIPLOMATIC AND MULTI-LATERAL MEANS TO RESOLVE THIS CRISIS.

-- IN RECENT DAYS, THE CRISIS HAS GROWN FAR MORE DANGEROUS. NORIEGA HAS ACTED INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE, UNPREDICTABLE, AND DANGEROUS.

-- THE U.S. HAD INCREASING FEAR OF NEW MORE THREATENING ACTS OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICANS.

-- THE U.S. WILL ONLY USE FORCE AS REQUIRED TO ARREST NORIEGA AND RESTRAIN THE PDF FROM COMING TO HIS RESCUE. THE U.S. HOPES TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

-- THE U.S. CONSULTED WITH THE LEADERS OF THE PANAMANIAN OPPOSITION ELECTED IN THE MAY 7TH ELECTIONS AND THEY APPROVED OF THIS ACTION. THEY HAVE BEEN SWORN IN AND HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY WILL BE FORMING A GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY. THE U.S. HAS RECOGNIZED THIS GOVERNMENT.

-- THESE LEADERS WERE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING OBSERVERS FROM DOZENS OF NATIONS, AS THE RIGHTFUL VICTORS IN THE PANAMANIAN ELECTIONS. THEY WARRANT RECOGNITION BY HOST GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. URGES HOST GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND SUCH RECOGNITION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THIS WILL IN ITSELF HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION, REDUCE THE PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL VIOLENCE, AND PERMIT THE U.S. TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES QUICKLY.

-- THE U.S. IS FULLY COMMITTED TO UPHOLDING THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. INDEED, ONE ADDITIONAL REASON THE PRESIDENT HAD TO ACT WAS TO SAFEGUARD THE CANAL AND UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF THE TREATIES.

-- THE PRESIDENT TOOK THIS ACTION ONLY AS A LAST RESORT. HE DID SO FOR 4 REASONS:

- 1I. TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES;
- II. TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY;
- III. TO ARREST AN INDICTED DRUG TRAFFICKER; AND
- IV. TO DEFEND THE INTEGRITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES.

-- WE HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT THIS ACTION. IT IS IMPORTANT, IN PARTICULAR, THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RALLY AROUND THE NEW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA, JUST AS IT DID AROUND ENDARA, ARIAS CALDERON, AND FORD WHEN THEY WERE ATTACKED AND BRUTALIZED FOLLOWING THE MAY 7 ELECTIONS.

-- THE U.S. INTENDS TO HELP THE NEW GOVERNMENT RESTORE PANAMA'S ECONOMY. YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE IMPORTANT AND WELCOME IN THIS EFFORT.

-- U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED AS EVENTS DEVELOP.

15. FOR NICARAGUA AND CUBA:

THE SECURITY OF YOUR DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN PANAMA IS NOT THREATENED IN ANY WAY. THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION TO ENLARGE THIS ACTION BEYOND PANAMA AND WE EXPECT YOUR GOVERNMENT TO ACT ACCORDINGLY.

16. FOR NICARAGUA ONLY:

THE U.S. REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE ESQUIPULAS, TESORO BEACH, AND TELA ACCORDS AND TO RESPECT THE RESULTS OF A

FREE AND FAIR ELECTION IN NICARAGUA NO MATTER WHO WINS.
THIS ACTION IN PANAMA SHOULD NOT DIVERT EITHER OF OUR
NATIONS FROM PURSUING A DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL
RESOLUTION TO THE CONFLICTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA. BAKER
UNQTE

BAKER